The Basic Minimum Standards for air based activity covers the specification regarding the equipments which can be used for aero sport and also covers qualifications required for instructors and operators who are crucial for conducting these activities.

The Standards also cover formation of an Accreditation Committee to monitor adventure tourism activities. The Committee will comprise of the Government and Industry representatives and of National Training Institutions, which will oversee the safety standards and continuously evolve/ update the guidelines.

Development of tourism in North-Eastern States

3008. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign tourists visited North-Eastern States, particularly Assam during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06;

(b) the steps taken by her Ministry to give more focus to the rich cultural heritage and natural beauty of North-Eastern States at the international level; and

(c) the steps taken to develop the hospitality business in Assam for development of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The number of foreign tourists visited North Eastern States is as under:

State	2004	2005	2006
Arunachal Pradesh	269	289	150 (Received upto May)
Assam	7285	10782	2595 (Received upto June)
Manipur	249	316	204 (Received upto August)
Meghalaya	12407	5099	1883 (Received upto May)
Mizoram	326	273	264 (Received upto August)
Nagaland	1084	883	425 (Received upto May)
Sikkim	14646	16523	8601 (Received upto May)
Tripura	3171	2677	78 (Received upto June)

(b) The Ministry of Tourism, through the India tourism Offices Overseas undertakes a series of promotional activities to promote the tourism products of the country, including those of the North Eastern States in the important tourist generating markets. These activities include advertising in the print and electronic media, participation in international travel fairs and exhibitions, arranging India Seminars, workshops and Road shows etc. Visits of Tour Operators/Media Representatives from overseas to some of the North Eastern States have been sponsored under the Hospitality Scheme of this Ministry. Space within the India Pavilions set up by the Ministry in important Travel Fairs such as WTM in London, ITB in Berlin, ATM in Dubai and PATA Travel Mart is provided to the North Eastern States on complimentary basis to promote tourism in the NE States.

(c) An Institute of Hotel Management and Catering Technology has been set up at Guwahati to provide training in hospitality business. A scheme of Capacity Building for Service Providers has been launched to impart training to the unorganized sector of hospitality business. Assam has also been assisted through Central Financial Assistance under the Destination/Circuit Development and for Fairs and Festivals. A list of projects undertaken during the 10th Plan in Assam is given the the enclosed Statement.

Statement

List of projects sanctioned for the Government of Assam during the Tenth Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the Projects	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
2002-03			
1.	Camping site at Khora	142.00	142.00
2.	Construction of facilities for pilgrims at Kamakhya	80.00	24.00
3.	Development of ethnic village at Bhalukpung	45.00	45.00
4.	Majuli festival	05.00	05.00
5.	Rangoli Bihu festival	12.05	09.60
6.	River front development along Brahmaputra	30.00	30.00
	TOTAL	314.05	255.60
2003-2004			
1.	Development around Kamakhya Temple at Guwahati	151.27	151.27
2.	Elephant Festival 2004 Assam	04.19	03.75

1	2	3	4
3.	Integrated Tourist Complex at Agartoli Range, Kaziranga, Assam	158.00	158.00
4.	Rangoli Utsav	4.60	3.68
5.	Amount released under the scheme of Capacity Building for Service Provider	12.00	12.00
6.	Amount released under the scheme of assistance for establishment of IHM & CT	341.91	341.91
	TOTAL	671.97	670.61
2004-2005			
1.	Development of NE Travel Circuit in Assam	437.75	350.00
2.	Tourist Arrival-cum-Reception Centre, Guwahati	384.00	284.00
3.	Celebration of Kaziranga National Park and 3rd elephant festival	15.00	12.00
4.	Released under scheme of Capacity Building for Service Provider	15.00	15.00
5.	Amount released under the scheme of assistance for establishment of IHME & CT	Nil	Nil
	TOTAL	851.75	661.00
2005-2006			
1.	Development of NE Circuit in Assam	280.00	224.00
2.	Construction of Yatri Niwas at Kapopathar (Assam)	30.00	05.76
3.	Proposal for Development of Adventure Tourism in Kaziranga	44.95	35.90
4.	Proposed Eco-Tourism Development Project at Kokrajhar, Assam	460.00	368.00
5.	Circuit Development of Manas-Guwahati-Kaziranga	781.00	624.80
6.	IT Project for Assam Tourism	47.80	43.00
7.	Celebration of Rangoli Bihu Festival	10.00	8.00
8.	Celebration of Dehing-Patkai Festival	5.00	4.00
9.	Integrated Development of Dhubri-Goalpara-Guwahati-Silchar-Karimganj Tourism Circuit	432.28	345.82
10.	Kaziranga Festival 11th to 14th Feb., 06	5.00	4.00
11.	Celebration of the Tea Tourism Festival, 2005	5.00	5.00
12.	Amount released the scheme of Capacity Building for Service Provider	21.50	21.50
13.	Released under scheme of assistance for establishment of IHME & CT	359.00	359.00
	TOTAL	2481.53	2048.78